

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the above-mentioned Office Action: claims 4 and 20 were objected to due to various informalities; claim 37 was rejected as failing to set forth the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention; claims 1-3, 7, 11-14, 17-19, 21, 22, 24, 27 and 35 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,579,533 (Weller); claims 6, 9, 19, 15, 16 and 24 were rejected as being unpatentable over Weller in view of JP2000-317629 (Hakko); claims 4 and 20 were rejected as being unpatentable over Weller in view of U.S. Patent 2,679,223 (Franklin); claims 25, 26 and 30 were rejected as being unpatentable over Weller in view of U.S. Patent 53,545 (Trowbridge); claims 29, 31, 32 and 42 were rejected as being unpatentable over Weller in view of U.S. Patent 73,798 (Gleason); claim 28 was rejected as being unpatentable over Weller in view of U.S. Patent 62,941 (Crosby); claims 33 and 34 were rejected as being unpatentable over Weller in view of U.S. Patent 3,358,897 (Christensen); claims 36-38 were rejected as being unpatentable over Weller in view of U.S. Patent 3,245,599 (Johnson); claims 40-41 were rejected as being unpatentable over Weller in view of Johnson and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,830,260 (Kent); claims 43 and 44 were rejected as being unpatentable over Weller in view of Gleason and further in view of U.S. Patent 2,213,438 (Young); and claims 5, 8, 23 and 39 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form with all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the Office Action, the title has been amended as requested by the Examiner.

Element 540 has been corrected to read "through-hole sleeve" in paragraphs [0273] and [0275] of the specification.

Claims 1-44 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 99-204 are added. (Claims 45-98 were previously cancelled.)

New independent claim 99 is old allowable dependent claim 5 rewritten in independent format and broadened to remove the "copper or copper alloy" feature.

New independent claim 144 is old allowable dependent claim 8 rewritten in independent format, with "metal particle sintered member" corrected to read "particle sintered member," and broadened to remove the "copper or copper alloy" feature.

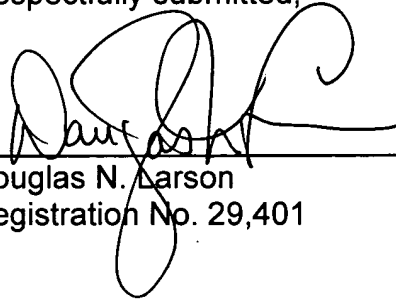
New independent claim 176 is old allowable dependent claim 23 rewritten in independent format, with the last paragraph broadened by replacing "copper particles or copper chromium particles" with "at least one of copper alloy particles, copper particles and copper chromium particles," and broadened to remove the "copper or copper alloy" feature.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Issuance of the Notice of Allowance at an early date is thus in order.

If there are any remaining issues, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the below-signed counsel for Applicants at (213) 689-5142 to seek to resolve them.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1853. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas N. Larson", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops.

Douglas N. Larson
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